THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought allocation of 10 lakh MTs of rice for drought relief works beyond June 2003. The Task Force has approved allocation of 2.20 lakh MTs (including 1.15 lakh MTs not released earlier) for utilization within July, 2003.

Registration of pesticide industries

†1360. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh conditions have been imposed on registration of indigenous pesticide industries due to the pressure of multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies want to dominate by destroying indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government to protect these indigenous companies and to sustain their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers insecticides after satisfying itself that the insecticide to which the application relates conforms to the claims made by the importer or by the manufacturer, as the case may be, as regards the efficacy of the insecticide and its safety to human beings and animals. For this purpose, the Registration Committee has formulated exhaustive guidelines on different parameters to assess efficacy and safety of insecticides. These guidelines are uniformly applicable to indigenous manufacturers as well as multinational companies.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Companies may be guided by their commercial interests. However, there is no difference in registration process for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

an indigenous company and a multinational company manufacturing product in India.

Investments in Agriculture Sector

1361. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in agriculture sector has decreased to 1.3 per cent in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the share of investment in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The share of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product at 1993-94 price has been estimated at 1.3 percent in the year 2000-2001 as well as 2001-2002 as compared to 1.4 percent in 1999-2000. This reflects the decline in public sector investment in Agriculture. However, GCF in Agriculture in absolute terms has increased from Rs. 17304 Crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 18057 Crore in 2001-2002 at 1993-1994 prices.

(c) Keeping in view the relatively low investment in agriculture vis-a-vis its share in GDP, efforts are being made to boost investment in Agriculture. The Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed a new Central Sector Scheme on Hi-tech Horticulture and Precision Farming. The major components of the scheme are use of hi-tech interventions like fertigation, use of biotechnological tools, green food production, and hi-tech green houses. Further, Government of India have been implementing the following long term programmes:

(i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) launched during 1996-97 for expeditious completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects;

(ii) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP);

(iii) Desert Development Programme (DDP);